

SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting December 16, 2002

Members present: Mr. Staton, Mr. Martin, Mr. Daniel, Senator Fair, Senator Giese, Dr. Gummerson, Mr. Hall, Mts. Hoag, Mr. Lightsey, Mrs. Marlowe, Senator Matthews, Mr. Stowe, Mrs. Spearman for Superintendent Tenenbaum, Representative Walker, Mr. Wilson

I. Welcome and Introductions Mr. Staton welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

II. Approval of the Minutes The minutes of the October 17 meeting were approved as distributed.

III. Subcommittee Reports

A. Academic Standards and Assessments: Mr. Wilson reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He reviewed the State Department of Education response to the request for changes to the PACT-Grades 3-8 science assessments. On behalf of the Subcommittee, he recommended approval. Senator Giese questioned why only one form of the test was available. Mrs. Marlowe asked about the sequence of testing. After discussion, the test was approved.

Mr. Wilson informed the EOC members of data analyses he had asked of the staff and indicated that these would be shared with the EOC members in the January meeting packet.

B. EIA and Improvement Mechanisms: Mr. Daniel reported on behalf of the subcommittee. He reviewed the recommendations for EIA funding, corrected the amount for principal specialists and moved approval. Senator Matthews questioned if sufficient resources were available to sustain gains in the schools receiving technical assistance. Rep. Walker indicated that some portion of lottery funds should be used in support of strong K-12 schools. Senator Fair commented on the need for debate among legislators about priorities for the lottery revenues. Senator Matthews indicated there needed to be a balance among the purposes for EIA and General Fund programs. The budget recommendations were approved as submitted by the Subcommittee.

Mr. Daniel reported on the proviso-required study on teacher specialists. The EOC and SDE had been asked to determine if incentives would increase the availability of teacher specialists in rural communities. The report outlined barriers and indicated that the degree of community rurality is not the most common barrier. Rep. Walker expressed concern that teachers were not leaving their home districts or communities to become specialists. The report was approved for submission to the Senate and House education committees.

Mr. Daniel reported on the First Year Formative Review of the Teacher Specialist Program. The review is intended to inform subsequent years of implementation. The program is popular and there are signs that in some schools progress is being made. It is too early to make a value judgment on the program. The evaluation study is a three-year review.

C. Parental Involvement: Mrs. Marlowe reported on behalf of the subcommittee. The Parental Involvement Subcommittee is meeting in January to begin analyzing the

parent survey data and to determine strategies through which the data can be more useful to school and district administrators.

D. Public Awareness: Mr. Martin reported on behalf of the Subcommittee. He pointed out the *Parent Guide* at member's desks and indicated that the EOC is receiving orders for copies from the schools. The next Public Awareness Subcommittee meeting is January 16 at 4:00 p.m.

E. Administration: Dr. Anderson drew members' attention to the two reports from school districts.

Mr. Staton appointed an ad hoc group to examine *Steps to Prosperity* and develop EOC position statements on the issues.

IV. Report from a Key Constituency: Dr. Karen Woodward spoke on behalf of the Superintendent's Ad Hoc Committee on Technology. She outlined the ten recommendations and the need for those actions. She responded to several questions from members including the relationship to the statewide technology initiative, the privacy of student information and the need to develop a comprehensive cost estimate for the ten recommendations.

IV. Mr. Staton wished everyone a grand holiday season and safe travel.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.